



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN-73)  
FPO AE 09550

6010  
Ser CVN-73/169  
9 Sep 23

From: Commanding Officer, USS *George Washington* (CVN-73)  
To: Commanding Officer, Naval Health Research Center

Subj: REQUEST FOR RESEARCH SUPPORT IN CARE OF NAVAL HEALTH  
RESEARCH CENTER

1. Summary. The Naval Health Research Center (NHRC) supports fleet operational readiness through research, development, testing, and evaluation of the biomedical and psychological aspects of military personnel health and performance. USS *George Washington* requests research support from NHRC to examine the overall psychological and behavioral health of our Sailors. It will determine the potential influence of specific organizational and individual risk, protective factors on their health and readiness, and to identify targets for interventions to reduce adverse events.
2. Background. Tragedy and work/life stress encountered by Sailors serving aboard our warship have highlighted a need to better understand risk and protective factors against harmful behaviors. Following a preliminary assessment of work-related stressors, perceptions of cohesion and leadership, and mental and behavioral health among Sailors serving aboard aircraft carriers, NHRC researchers are seeking to expand research efforts to determine the influence of organizational and individual risk and protective factors on harmful behaviors (e.g., suicidal and aggressive behavior) among shipboard Sailors. In addition to examining baseline associations, NHRC researchers will examine if and how relationships between risk/protective factors and behavioral health outcomes fluctuate over time through a series of repeated assessments.
3. Support. The USS *George Washington* requests NHRC continue their exceptional work in identifying factors that lead to increased risk of suicide in the shipyard environment, and continue their research as the ship transitions into a high operational tempo period in preparation for the Forward Deployed Naval Forces environment. The impact of their research on the livelihood of Sailors in these transitional phases will be felt for generations of warfighters.
4. The point of contact regarding this matter is our ship's Medical Administration Officer, LT Sam Woodson, who may be reached via e-mail at [samuel.woodson@cvn73.navy.mil](mailto:samuel.woodson@cvn73.navy.mil).

  
B. C. GAUT